

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprised of a computer processor configured for executing program instructions stored in computer memory and arranged for automatic construction of a software package change plan data output, said system comprising:

an arrangement for submitting a request for accomplishing a software change to the computer system;

an arrangement for constructing a task graph specifying the order in which tasks accomplishing a software change execute on the system in compliance with data and temporal dependency constraints; and

an arrangement for creating a software package change plan from according to the task graph;

wherein the arrangement for creating a software package change plan includes an arrangement for determining operating state transitions that are imposed on software artifacts of the system by execution of the tasks; and

further comprising an arrangement for analyzing the software package
change plan, whereby the duration of a system service outage caused by a change plan
may be determined.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of **Claim 1**, further comprising an arrangement for storing information about software packages which may be installed on the computer system.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of **Claim 2**, further comprising an arrangement for storing information about a current configuration of the computer system, including packages installed on the system.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The system of **Claim 1 [[6]]**, further comprising an arrangement which specifies software artifacts and other services being used by the system service being analyzed.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of **Claim 1 [[6]]**, further comprising an arrangement which specifies the impact on service level agreements as a result of executing the software package change plan.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of **Claim 1** [[6]], further comprising an arrangement which specifies the impact on installation policies as a result of executing the software package change plan.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for automatic construction of a software package change plan, said method comprising the steps of:

submitting a request for accomplishing a software change to the a computer system;

constructing a task graph specifying the order in which tasks accomplishing a software change execute on the system in compliance with data and temporal dependency constraints; and

creating a software package change plan from according to the task graph;

wherein the step of creating a software package change plan includes determining operating state transitions that are imposed on software artifacts of the system by execution of the tasks; and

further comprising the step of analyzing the software package change plan, whereby the duration of a system service outage caused by a change plan may be determined.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of **Claim 10**, further comprising the step of storing information about software packages which may be installed on the computer system.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of **Claim 11**, further comprising the step of storing information about a current configuration of the computer system, including the packages installed on the system.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of **Claim 10 [[15]]**, further comprising the step of specifying software artifacts and other services being used by the system service being analyzed.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of **Claim 10 [[15]]**, further comprising the step of specifying the impact on service level agreements as a result of executing the software package change plan.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of **Claim 10 [[15]]**, further comprising the step of specifying the impact on installation policies as a result of executing the software package change plan.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program storage device readable by a computer processor machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for automatic construction of a software package change plan data output, said method comprising the steps of:

submitting a request for accomplishing a software change to the a computer system;

constructing a task graph specifying the order in which tasks accomplishing a software change execute on the system in compliance with data and temporal dependency constraints; and

creating a software package change plan from according to the task graph;
wherein the step of creating a software package change plan includes determining operating state transitions that are imposed on software artifacts of the system by execution of the tasks; and

further comprising the step of analyzing the software package change plan, whereby the duration of a system service outage caused by a change plan may be determined.